



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 456**

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 300

*Senate, April 9, 2014*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WHO DECONTAMINATE  
REUSABLE MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS OR DEVICES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) As used in this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Central service technician" means a person who (A)  
4 decontaminates, prepares, packages, sterilizes, stores and distributes  
5 reusable medical instruments or devices in a health care facility,  
6 whether such person is employed by the health care facility or  
7 provides services pursuant to a contract with the health care facility,  
8 and (B) is not a health care provider acting within the health care  
9 provider's scope of practice or a student or intern performing such  
10 functions under the direct supervision of a health care provider as part  
11 of the student's or intern's training or internship.

12 (2) "Health care facility" means an outpatient surgical facility, as  
13 defined in section 19a-493b of the general statutes, or a hospital, as

14 defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes.

15 (3) "Health care provider" means any person or organization that  
16 provides health care services and is licensed in accordance with title 20  
17 of the general statutes.

18 (b) (1) No person shall engage in the practice of a central service  
19 technician unless the person is certified by the International  
20 Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management or the  
21 Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc. or is  
22 certified or otherwise recognized by another professional organization  
23 that is deemed acceptable by the Commissioner of Public Health  
24 pursuant to regulations adopted under subsection (g) of this section.

25 (2) Any person who has performed the functions of a central service  
26 technician prior to October 1, 2014, may engage in the practice of a  
27 central service technician on and after October 1, 2014, provided such  
28 person meets the certification or recognition requirements of this  
29 subsection not later than April 1, 2016.

30 (c) No health care facility shall employ or contract for the services of  
31 a central service technician unless such person meets the requirements  
32 of subsection (b) of this section. Any health care facility that employs  
33 or contracts for the services of a central service technician on October 1,  
34 2014, shall provide written notice to such central service technician of  
35 his or her status as a central service technician.

36 (d) (1) Each central service technician shall complete a minimum of  
37 ten hours of continuing education annually. The continuing education  
38 shall be in areas related to the functions of a central service technician.  
39 A central service technician may request, in writing, an extension of  
40 time to complete such continuing education requirements from the  
41 International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel  
42 Management or Certification Board for Sterile Processing and  
43 Distribution, Inc. Said association or board may grant a central service  
44 technician described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section  
45 an extension of time to complete such continuing education

46 requirements. A health care facility may grant a central service  
47 technician an extension of time to complete the continuing education  
48 requirements.

49 (2) A request for an extension of time to complete the continuing  
50 education requirements under this subsection shall be granted for  
51 good cause, including, but not limited to, the medical disability or  
52 illness of a central service technician that requires an extended leave of  
53 absence from the central service technician's work or a central service  
54 technician's active service in the armed forces, as defined in subsection  
55 (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes. Any central service  
56 technician who is granted an extension of time to complete the  
57 continuing education requirements because of a medical disability or  
58 illness shall complete such continuing education requirements not later  
59 than ninety days after the medical disability or illness that prevented  
60 completion of the continuing education requirement has been  
61 resolved. Any central service technician who is granted an extension of  
62 time to complete the continuing education requirements because of  
63 active service in the armed forces shall complete such requirements not  
64 later than ninety days after the central service technician's return to  
65 work from such active service.

66 (e) A health care facility shall, upon the request of a central service  
67 technician, verify, in writing, the central service technician's dates of  
68 employment or the contract period during which the central service  
69 technician provided services to the health care facility.

70 (f) The Commissioner of Public Health shall enforce the provisions  
71 of this section.

72 (g) The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations, in  
73 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to  
74 implement the provisions of this section.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	October 1, 2014	New section
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***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In Subsec. (b)(2), "April 1, 2016" was moved to the end of the sentence, for clarity; and in Subsec. (d)(1), "Healthcare" was added before "Central", for accuracy.

***PH***      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill establishes requirements of central service technicians (CST) and limits persons from engaging in CST practice without certification/recognition by certain professional organizations. It is anticipated that the Department of Public Health can enforce the provisions of the bill without incurring a fiscal impact by sampling personnel files during routine inspections of hospitals and outpatient surgical facilities.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 300*****AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WHO DECONTAMINATE REUSABLE MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS OR DEVICES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires “central services technicians” (CSTs) to be certified or recognized by one of certain professional organizations. It defines a “central service technician” as someone who decontaminates, prepares, packages, sterilizes, stores, and distributes reusable medical instruments or devices in a hospital or outpatient surgical facility, either as an employee or under contract. The bill excludes from the definition (1) licensed health care providers acting within their scope of practice or (2) students or interns performing the functions listed above as part of their training or internship, under a licensed provider’s direct supervision.

The bill gives anyone already performing CST functions until April 2016 to get the appropriate certification or recognition.

Among other things, the bill:

1. prohibits hospitals or outpatient surgical facilities from employing CSTs who do not meet the bill’s requirement to be certified or recognized,
2. requires the public health (DPH) commissioner to enforce the bill’s requirements,
3. authorizes her to adopt implementing regulations, and
4. requires CSTs to complete 10 hours of continuing education (CE) annually.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

## **CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIANS**

### ***Certification or Recognition Requirement***

The bill prohibits anyone from engaging in the practice of a CST unless the person is:

1. certified by the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management (IAHCSMM) or the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc. (CBSPD) (both entities offer multiple certifications) or
2. certified or otherwise recognized by another professional organization that the DPH commissioner deems acceptable in regulations.

Anyone who performed CST functions before October 1, 2014 can continue to do so, but must get certified or recognized as specified above by April 1, 2016.

The bill prohibits hospitals and outpatient surgical facilities from employing or contracting for the services of a CST who does not meet these requirements.

The bill does not set penalties for CSTs or facilities that violate these provisions.

### ***Notification of Status or Employment Period***

Under the bill, if hospitals or outpatient surgical facilities have CSTs as employees or under contract on October 1, 2014 (the bill's effective date), the facilities must provide them with written notice of their status as such technicians.

The bill also requires these health care facilities to provide written verification, upon a CST's request, of the technician's dates of employment or contract period.

**Continuing Education**

The bill requires CSTs to complete at least 10 hours of CE annually, with the education related to CST functions.

Under the bill, a CST seeking more time to complete his or her CE requirements can request an extension, in writing, from the IAHCSPD or CBSPD. The bill authorizes these entities to grant extensions to CSTs working as such before October 1, 2014. The bill also authorizes hospitals and outpatient surgical facilities to grant extensions to all CSTs.

The bill specifies that extensions must be granted for good cause. This includes a CST's (1) medical disability or illness requiring an extended leave of absence from work or (2) active service in the armed forces. Technicians granted an extension must complete their CE requirements no later than 90 days after (1) the disability or illness has been resolved or (2) their return to work after active service, as applicable. (It is unclear how these provisions on extensions may interact with any contrary provisions in the organizations' procedures.)

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26      Nay 0      (03/21/2014)